

Actions of the USATT High Performance Committee (HPC)
April – May, 2013

Reported by Carl Danner, HPC Chair
June 18, 2013

During April and May, the HPC did not hold any formal meetings or conference calls. However, the following summary of its actions and discussions is offered to inform USATT members about the HPC's activities conducted by email, and through participation in the USATT Board's April meeting.

1. HPC Chair Carl Danner participated in the April USATT Board meeting and the ITTF North America meeting at the Westchester, NY North American Cup event. It was particularly helpful to meet with representatives of the ITTF and Table Tennis Canada, to compare notes on our respective development situations. One interesting idea used by Table Tennis Canada is to determine the level of funding for international competitions based on the extent of their training and competitive play. Canadian national team members who are more active get a higher proportion of their expenses paid.
2. Following consultation with USATT High Performance Director Doru Gheorghe and Mr. Danner, the USOC approved the proposed processes for selection and funding of athletes to qualifying events for the 2014 Youth Olympic Games. This included a review of some clarifying language in the athlete Code of Conduct. The initial trial (to determine funding and selection priorities for 2013 qualifying events only) will occur during the first day of the U.S. Open in Las Vegas. Any athlete or parent who is not yet aware of the details of this is advised to look at the USATT website, or contact Mr. Gheorghe.
3. Four events at this year's U.S. Open (Men's and Women's Singles, and Men's and Women's Under 21 Singles) are considered part of the ITTF Challenge Series. For that reason, players are entered by their national table tennis federations. The U.S. was guaranteed twelve places in each of these events, with the possibility of entering more players depending on the number from other countries. The HPC was asked to determine a priority system for these places and the waiting lists. An extensive email discussion within the HPC focused on concerns such as obtaining the best opportunity for our national team members to obtain world ranking points, accommodating strong players who are resident in the U.S., whether or how to consider various kinds of legal resident status with respect to potentially representing the U.S. in the future, and what playing level represented a reasonable minimum for participation in such international events. The resulting criteria were adopted and published on the USATT website, and are being used for the Challenge Series events.
4. The HPC finalized and transmitted to the USATT Board a detailed analysis and set of recommendations regarding the role, job duties, hiring, review, and retention policies

for National Team coaches. This responded to a USATT Board request for this analysis, and for the HPC to develop specific criteria through which NT coaches will be evaluated.

5. HPC members Carl Danner and Jasna Rather participated on the interview committee for Para Head NT Coach, NT Coach, and Junior NT Coach positions. The interview committee provided USATT CEO Mike Cavanaugh feedback and recommendations regarding filling the positions, on which action is pending.
6. Finally, our able-bodied and Para national team athletes were very active internationally in April and May. We encourage everyone to view their results at <http://www.teamusa.org/USA-Table-Tennis/Team-USA/2013-Team-Results>. Go USA!